

# Hande Sevgi

Cambridge, MA

✉ handesevgi@g.harvard.edu ☎ (+1) 413-362-2026

📄 <https://sites.google.com/view/handesevgi>

## EDUCATION

---

### Harvard University

Linguistics (PhD)

Dissertation: *Manner Modification Across Modalities:*

*Insights from Gesture, Sign, and Spoken Language*

Committee: Kathryn Davidson, Jonathan David Bobaljik, and Kathryn Franich

2019–2026

Cambridge, MA

### Boğaziçi University

Linguistics (MA)

Thesis: *The Impact of Age of Acquisition on Structure:*

*A Study on Alignment in Turkish Sign Language*

Advisor: Kadir Gökgöz

2015–2019

Istanbul, Türkiye

### Boğaziçi University

Translation and Interpreting Studies (BA)

Senior Project Thesis: *Translating Political Economy Texts through*

*a Functionalist Lens: A Skopos-Based Translation and Analysis of*

*“The Migration and Labor Question Today” by Raúl Delgado Wise*

Advisor: İsmail Kaplan

2009–2014

Istanbul, Türkiye

## RESEARCH EXPERTISE

---

- ◇ Event-internal manner modifiers and their interaction with information structure and negation
- ◇ Experimental approaches to pragmatics across sign/spoken languages and co-speech gestures
- ◇ Iconicity across modalities
- ◇ Morphosyntax of Turkic languages
- ◇ Morphosyntax of sign language classifiers
- ◇ Age of acquisition effects in sign languages

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal Papers Published

Sevgi, Hande, & Kadir Gökgöz. 2023. Classifiers, Argument Expression, and Age of Acquisition Effects in Turkish Sign Language. *Sign Language & Linguistics*, 26(1). doi.org/10.1075/sll.21006.sev

### Journal Papers in Progress

Sevgi, Hande, & Kathryn Davidson. (Revising manuscript in response to reviewer feedback). Where are your manners: Experiments on information structure and manner adverbials in Turkish.

Sevgi, Hande. (Revising manuscript in response to reviewer feedback). Two-Handed Classifiers in Turkish Sign Language: An Analysis of the Non-Dominant Hand.

### Book Chapters

Gökgöz, Kadir, & Hande Sevgi. 2020. Aspects of clause structure and morphology in Turkish Sign Language. In Gürer, Aslı, Dilek Uygun-Gökmen and Balkız Öztürk (Eds.). *Morphological Complexity within and across Boundaries*. John Benjamins Publishing Company. doi.org/slcs.215.12gok

Kayabaşı, Demet, Hande Sevgi, & A. Sumru Özsoy. 2020. Null arguments in Turkish Sign Language. In Gürer, Aslı, Dilek Uygun-Gökmen and Balkız Öztürk (Eds.). *Morphological Complexity within and across Boundaries*. John Benjamins Publishing Company. doi.org/10.1075/slcs.215.14kay

Gökgöz, Kadir, Demet Kayabaşı, & **Hande Sevgi**. 2020. Syntax, Chapter 2: Clause Structure, Section 2.1: The syntactic realization of argument structure. In Kelepir, Meltem (Ed.) *A Grammar of Turkish Sign Language (TİD)*. SIGN-HUB Sign Language Grammar Series.

### **Edited volumes**

Daria A. Bikina & **Hande Sevgi**. 2023. Proceedings of the Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic: Vol. 8. Linguistic Society of America.  
journals.linguisticsociety.org/proceedings/tu

### **Proceedings**

Sevgi, Hande. 2024. One root to build them all: Roots in sign language classifiers. In Autry, Robert, Gabriela de la Cruz Sanchez, Luis A. Irizarry Figueroa, Kristina Mihajlovic, Tianyi Ni, Ryan Smith, and Heidi Harley (Eds.). *Proceedings of West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, 39(2), pp. 393-400.

**Sevgi, Hande** & Kadir Gökgöz. 2024. Age of acquisition effects in zero-anaphora comprehension in Turkish Sign Language. In AlThagafi, Hayat Abdullah Ali and Jupitara Ray (Eds.). *Proceedings of Boston University Conference on Language Development*, 48(2), pp. 481-493.

Kirby, Ian L. & **Hande Sevgi**. 2023. Plural Possession in Turkish and Sakha. In Lee, Si Kai, Sarah Asinari, and Sabine Lazakovits (Eds.). *Proceedings of the Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*, 7(1), pp. 73-87. doi.org/10.3765/ptu.v7i1.5320 (Peer reviewed)

Sevgi, Hande. 2022. Verb doubling in Turkish: Evidence from Trabzon dialect. In Gündoğdu, Songül, Sahar Taghipour, and Andrew Peters (Eds.). *Proceedings of the Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic*, 6. doi.org/10.3765/ptu.v6i1.5063 (Peer reviewed)

### **Works in Progress**

Sevgi, Hande, and Kathryn Davidson. Manner in Gesture and Language: An Experimental Approach.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

---

Sevgi, Hande. ‘Gesture Type Matters: Encoding Path and Manner in Space.’ Poster presented at the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS), Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, the Netherlands, June 5-7, 2024.

Sevgi, Hande. ‘Two-Handed Classifiers in Sign Languages: An Investigation in Turkish Sign Language.’ Paper presented at the 60th Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 60), University of Chicago, April 26-28, 2024.

**Sevgi, Hande**, & Kadir Gökgöz. ‘Age of Acquisition Effects in Zero-Anaphora Comprehension in Turkish Sign Language.’ Poster presented at the 48th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 48), Boston University, November 2-5, 2023.

Kirby, Ian & **Hande Sevgi**. ‘Plural possession in Turkish and Sakha.’ Paper presented at the 7th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+7), University of Connecticut, February 18-19, 2022.

Sevgi, Hande. ‘Syntax on its own is not enough: Sign language classifiers.’ Poster presented at the 57th Meeting of Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 57), University of Chicago, May 6-8, 2021.

Sevgi, Hande. ‘One root to build them all: Roots in sign language classifiers.’ Poster presented at the 39th Meeting of West Coast Conference, University of Arizona, April 8-11, 2021.

Sevgi, Hande. ‘Verb doubling in Turkish: Data from Trabzon dialect.’ Paper presented at the 6th Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+6), University of Toronto, February 19-20, 2021.

**Sevgi, Hande** & Kadir Gökgöz. ‘To what extent does age of acquisition matter: Evidence from Turkish Sign Language (TİD).’ Poster presented at Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign language Theory (FEAST), Université de Paris, June 23-25, 2020.

Sevgi, Hande. ‘The Role of Syntax in Interpretation of the Particle “bile”.’ Paper presented at the 3rd Budapest Linguistics Conference (BLINC3), ELTE, Hungary, June 6-8, 2019.

**Sevgi, Hande** & Kadir Gökgöz. ‘(Non)Effects of Age of Acquisition in Turkish Sign Language Morpho-Syntax: Evidence from Classifiers and Argument Expression.’ Paper presented at the 55th Meeting of Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 55), University of Chicago, May 16-18, 2019.

Özsoy, Sumru, Samet Demirtaş, Gül Yiğit, **Hande Sevgi**, Demet Kayabaşı, Kadir Gökgöz. Sağır Çocukların İşaret Dili Edinmesinin Önemi (The Importance of Sign Language Acquisition for Deaf Children). Paper presented at 10th National Congress of Language and Speech Disorders, İstanbul Medipol University, Turkey, April 28-May 1, 2019.

**Sevgi, Hande**, Belgin Dinç, Didar Akar, Balkız Öztürk, Ceyda Arslan Kechriotis, Nicolas Kontovas, and Aslı Göksel. İstanbul’un Miras Dillerinin Türkçe ile Etkileşimi (Interaction of Turkish with Heritage Languages of Istanbul). Paper presented at 33rd National Conference on Turkish Linguistics (UDK), Mersin University, Türkiye, May 9-10, 2019.

Gökgöz, Kadir, Samet Demirtaş, Gül Yiğit, **Hande Sevgi**, Demet Kayabaşı, Sumru Özsoy. Sağır çocuklarda işaret ve konuşulan dil edinim konuları ve süreçleri (Acquisition Issues and Processes Sign and Spoken Language by Deaf Children. Roundtable presentation at 33rd National Conference on Turkish Linguistics (UDK), Mersin University, Türkiye, May 9-10, 2019.

Sevgi, Hande. ‘bile’ parçacığının sözdizimsel analizi (A Syntactic Analysis of ‘bile’). Poster presented at 31st National Conference on Turkish Linguistics, Anadolu University, Türkiye, May 12-13, 2017.

Sevgi, Hande. A Syntactic Analysis of ‘bile’ (even). Paper presented at 11th Student Conference on Linguistics, Mersin University, Türkiye, April 20-21, 2017.

## TEACHING

---

### *Tutorial head instructor at Harvard University*

Sophomore Tutorial: Sign Languages & Linguistics	Spring 2024
Sophomore Tutorial: A Brief Introduction to Sign Language Linguistics	Spring 2023
Junior Tutorial: Understanding Language through Sign Languages	Fall 2022

### *Teaching fellow at Harvard University*

Practicum (Instructor: Jonathan David Bobaljik)	Spring 2024
Language, Structure, and Cognition (Instructor: Adam R. Singerman)	Spring 2022
The Science of Language: An Introduction (Instructor: Yağmur Sağ)	Fall 2021
Word Structure (Instructor: Jonathan David Bobaljik)	Fall 2021

### *Research assistant at Boğaziçi University*

Morphology (Instructor: Mine Nakipoğlu, 73 students)	Spring 2019
Phonetics (Instructor: Kadir Gökgöz, 58 students)	Spring 2019
Syntax (Instructor: Sumru Özsoy, 58 students)	Fall 2018
Phonology (Instructor: Stefano Canalis, 51 students)	Fall 2018
Phonetics (Instructor: Kadir Gökgöz, 53 students)	Spring 2018
Syntax and Semantics of Modern Turkish (Instructor: Balkız Öztürk, 53 students)	Spring 2018
Phonology (Instructor: Kadir Gökgöz, 42 students)	Fall 2017

### *Turkish Language and Culture Program, Boğaziçi University*

Instructor of Speaking Course, Pre-Intermediate Turkish Class	Summer 2019
Teaching Assistant, Advanced Turkish Class	Summer 2018

## HONORS, GRANTS, AND CERTIFICATES

---

**Dissertation Completion Fellowship** Fall 2024 - Spring 2025  
Harvard University

**Mind, Brain, and Behavior Graduate Student Award** Spring 2024 - Fall 2024  
Harvard University (\$5000)

**Bok Teaching Certificate** Spring 2023  
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University  
*Upon completing a multi-semester elective program in pedagogy, teaching, and course design.*

**Student Recognition of Teaching**  
Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
*Awarded by the Office of Academic Programs for achieving student evaluation scores of 4.5/5 or higher.*  
• Awarded for Ling 98A, Tutorial Head Instructor Fall 2022

**Certificate of Distinction in Teaching**  
Harvard University  
*Awarded by the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Undergraduate Education for achieving student evaluation scores of 4.5/5 or higher.*  
• Awarded for Ling 83, Discussion Section Spring 2022  
• Awarded for Ling 104, Discussion Section Fall 2021

**Certificate on German** 2014  
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul  
*Awarded by the School of Foreign Languages upon completing 21 credits of coursework.*

**Erasmus Grant** Sept 2011 - Feb 2012  
European Union  
*Awarded through the Erasmus Student Exchange Programme to study Applied Language Studies at Lessius University College, Antwerp, Belgium.*

## TALKS AND LECTURES

---

**Sign Languages and Linguistics**  
Guest lecture at Harvard University  
LING-S 101 instructed by Ankana Saha July 24, 2024  
LING 101 instructed by Tanya Bondarenko November 6, 2024  
LING 101 instructed by Yağmur Sağ November 28, 2022  
LING 101 instructed by Yağmur Sağ November 29, 2021

**Sign Language Morphology**  
Guest lecture at Harvard University  
LING 104 instructed by Jonathan David Bobaljik November 12, 2024  
LING 104 instructed by Jonathan David Bobaljik November 16, 2021

**A Visit to the Sign Language World** October 18, 2022  
Invited talk  
Harvard Undergraduate Linguistics Society (HULS)

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

---

- Supporting Sign Language Development of Deaf Children with Hearing Parents through Linguistically-Informed Preschool Stories** 2018-2019  
Position: Research Assistant  
(funded by Boğaziçi University, #11500)  
PI: Dr. Kadir Gökgöz, Boğaziçi University
- Language Contact in Turkey: Documentation and Analysis** 2016-2019  
Position: Research Assistant  
(funded by Boğaziçi University, #1445)  
PI: Dr. Ash Göksel, Boğaziçi University
- Contrastive interlanguage analysis of French, Portuguese, Japanese, and Turkish** 2016-2017  
Position: Responsible for data collection  
PI: Dr. Yuji Kawaguchi, TUFSS

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

---

- Pedagogy Fellow of Linguistics Department** 2023-2024  
Harvard University
- Lab Manager of Meaning and Modality Lab** 2023-2024  
Harvard University
- Assistant Head Tutor of Linguistics Department** 2022-2023  
Harvard University
- Co-organizer of the Eighth Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+8)** March 4-5, 2023  
with Daria A. Bikina  
Harvard University, the Department of Linguistics  
WEBSITE
- Co-coordinator of East Coast Five (ECO-5) on behalf of Harvard University** 2022-2023  
with Aljoša Milenkovič
- Co-coordinator of Harvard Linguistic Universals Colloquium Series** 2021-2023  
with Yuhan Zhang (2021) & Daria Bikina (2022)
- Representative of graduate students of Linguistic Department** 2016-2017  
Boğaziçi University
- Conference Reviewer** 2023-Present  
The Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS)  
The Workshop on Turkic and Languages in Contact with Turkic (Tu+)

## OTHER EMPLOYMENTS

---

- Generative Model Evaluator - Intern** Jun 2025 - Nov 2025  
Mercor.co  
*Contributed to LLM training and evaluation at a leading AI research lab by designing, implementing, and reviewing domain-specific human-in-the-loop evaluation frameworks that integrate qualitative judgments with quantitative metrics to inform model diagnostics, enhance robustness, and foster cross-disciplinary research. Identified and interpreted model failure modes to advance theoretical insight into language representation and model behavior.*

## OTHER RELATED AFFILIATIONS

---

Member of Meaning and Modality Lab Harvard University	2019-Present
Sign Language Linguistics Society (SLLS)	2023-Present
Linguistics Society of America	2025-Present

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

---

Turkish	Native
English	Fluent
German	Upper Intermediate (good RD, fair SP)
Turkish Sign Language (TİD)	Research proficiency
American Sign Language (ASL)	Research proficiency
<i>Languages of Interest:</i> Turkish, Turkish Sign Language (TİD), American Sign Language (ASL), Romeika (Pontic Greek), Bahasa Bali, Içibemba.	

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

---

**Languages:** R, Python, SQL

**Technologies/Frameworks:** ELAN, Qualtrics, RStudio, LaTeX, TeXEditor, PRAAT, Adobe Animate

## REFERENCES

---

Kathryn Davidson Harvard University Professor of Linguistics kathryndavidson@fas.harvard.edu	Jonathan David Bobaljik Harvard University Professor of Linguistics bobaljik@fas.harvard.edu	Kadir Gökgöz Boğaziçi University Associate Professor of Linguistics kadir.gokgoz@bogazici.edu.tr
---	---	---